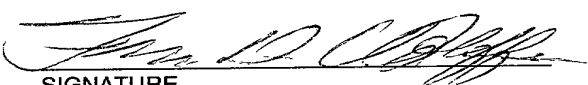


FORM PTO-1390U S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV. 10-2000)		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 00771.00025
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, See 37 CFR 1.5) TBA 09/914793
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NL00/00126	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 1 March 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 9 March 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION HOLDER FOR PLANT CUTTINGS		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Hendricus W. J. VAN TOL et al.		
Applicant herewith submits to the United State Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
	a.	<input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
	b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.
	c.	<input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
	a.	<input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
	b.	<input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.
	c.	<input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
	d.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
Items 11-16 below concern other document(s) or information included:		
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98.
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	An Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A FIRST preliminary amendment.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A substitute specification.
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other items or information:
		International Search Report (ISA/EPO)
		Application Data Sheet (ADS)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, See 37 CFR 1.5) TBA 09/914793		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/NL00/00126		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO 00771.00025	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.455(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$860.00				CALCULATIONS	
				PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total Claims	26 -20 =	6	X \$18.00	\$108.00	
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$ 80.00	\$0.00	
Multiple dependent claims (if applicable)			X \$270.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$968.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated below above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$968.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$968.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property.				\$0.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$968.00	
+				Amount to be:	\$
				refunded	\$
				charged	\$
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0733 in the amount of <u>\$968.00</u> to cover the above fees. c. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0733. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. Eleventh Floor 1001 G Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001-4597 Telephone: (202) 508-9100					
<div style="text-align: right;">  SIGNATURE Franklin D. Wolfe Registration No. 19,724 Date: September 5, 2001 </div>					

Application Data Sheet**Application Information**

Application Type::	Regular
Subject Matter::	Utility
Title::	Holder for Plant Cuttings
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Request for Non-Publication?::	NO
Suggested Drawing Figure::	1
Total Drawing Sheets::	9
Small Entity?::	NO

Applicant Information

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	Netherlands
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Hendricus Wouterus Jozef
Family Name::	Van Tol
City of Residence::	Ter Aar
Country of Residence::	Netherlands
Street of mailing address::	Schepenstraat 35
City of mailing address::	Ter Aar
Country of mailing address::	Netherlands
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	NL-2461 SN

Applicant Authority Type:: Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country:: Netherlands
Status:: Full Capacity
Given Name:: Cornelis Wilhelmus
Family Name:: Dekker
City of Residence:: Hensbroek
Country of Residence:: Netherlands
Street of mailing address:: Dorpsweg 42
City of mailing address:: Hensbroek
Country of mailing address:: Netherlands
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address:: NL-1711 RK

Applicant Authority Type:: Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country:: Netherlands
Status:: Full Capacity
Given Name:: Cornelis Frans Taco
Family Name:: Visser
City of Residence:: 's-Gravendeel
Country of Residence:: Netherlands
Street of mailing address:: Molenvliet 7
City of mailing address:: 's-Gravendeel
Country of mailing address:: Netherlands
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address:: NL-3295 LJ

Correspondence Information

Correspondence Customer Number:: 22907

Representative Information

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Domestic Priority Information

Application::	Continuity Type::	Parent Application::	Parent Filing Date::
This Application	National Stage of	PCT/NL00/00126	03/01/00

Foreign Priority Information

Country::	Application number::	Filing Date::	Priority Claimed::
Netherlands	1011492	03/09/99	YES

Assignee Information

Assignee name:: Visser 's-Gravendeel Holding B.V.
 Street of mailing address:: Beneden Havendijk 115a
 City of mailing address:: 's-Gravendeel
 Country of mailing address:: Netherlands
 Postal or Zip Code of mailing address:: NL-3295 XB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hendricus W. J. VAN TOL et al.

Serial No.: TBA

Filed: Herewith

For: HOLDER FOR PLANT CUTTINGS

Atty. Dkt. No.: 00771.00025

U.S. National Stage of

International Application No.:

PCT/NL00/00126

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of any claim fees, please amend the instant application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Insert the Abstract of the Disclosure as annexed hereto on a separate sheet.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 24, and 25, as follows:

1. (Amended) Holder for plant cuttings, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the center of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in the same central plane.

3. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier extends as a strip and that the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier at regular mutual distances.

4. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the clamping elements are each fixed on the same side of the carrier.

5. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mutual distance between the clamping elements on one side of the carrier is greater than or equal to the mutual distance between the center of the clamping elements so that two carriers with their clamping elements can be placed between each other.

6. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is substantially flexible.

7. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is divided into substantially rigid pieces which are coupled in mutually flexible manner.

8. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier has been made substantially from rigid material.

11. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier.

13. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the inner walls of both parts of the clamping elements have an upward diverging form on one side.

14. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the inner wall of both parts of the clamping elements together have a substantially oval section.

15. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that each of the parts is connected to the carrier by at least two bridges.

18. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the carrier comprises elements which extend parallel to the axis of the clamping elements and which are connected by

means of a narrowed portion to parts of the carrier extending substantially in lengthwise direction of the carrier.

24. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the holder is manufactured by injection moulding or thermoforming of plastic.

25. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is manufactured from flat material in which at least three lips are punched at the position of each clamping element, which lips are adapted to fixedly clamp the plant cuttings.

REMARKS

By this amendment, an Abstract has been inserted and multiple dependencies have been eliminated. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Annexed hereto is a marked-up version of the amendments made in the instant amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 5, 2001

Franklin D. Wolffe
Reg. No. 19,724

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001-4597
(202) 508-9100

Attachment:

1. Marked-Up Version of Amendments Made
2. Abstract of the Disclosure

FDW:lab

Marked-Up Version of Amendments Made**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 24, and 25, have been amended herein as follows:

1. (Amended) Holder for plant cuttings, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the ~~center~~center of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in the same central plane.
3. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the carrier extends as a strip and that the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier at regular mutual distances.
4. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the clamping elements are each fixed on the same side of the carrier.
5. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the mutual distance between the clamping elements on one side of the carrier is greater than or equal to the mutual distance between the ~~center~~center of the clamping elements so that two carriers with their clamping elements can be placed between each other.
6. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is substantially flexible.
7. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1-5~~claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is divided into substantially rigid pieces which are coupled in mutually flexible manner.

Marked-Up Version of Amendments Made

8. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1-5~~claim 1, characterized in that the carrier has been made substantially from rigid material.

11. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier.

13. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, characterized in that the inner walls of both parts of the clamping elements have an upward diverging form on one side.

14. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 11, ~~12 or 13~~, characterized in that the inner wall of both parts of the clamping elements together have a substantially oval section.

15. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 12, ~~13 or 14~~, characterized in that each of the parts is connected to the carrier by at least two bridges.

~~13~~18. (Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the carrier comprises elements which extend parallel to the axis of the clamping elements and which are connected by means of a narrowed portion to parts of the carrier extending substantially in lengthwise direction of the carrier.

24. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the claims 9-23~~claim 9, characterized in that the holder is manufactured by injection moulding or thermoforming of plastic.

25. (Amended) Holder as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1-6~~claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is manufactured from flat material in which at least three lips are punched at the position of each clamping element, which lips are adapted to fixedly clamp the plant cuttings.

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WO 00/52996

PCT/NL00/00126

HOLDER FOR PLANT CUTTINGS

5 The present invention relates to a holder for plant cuttings.

 Cutting is a method of vegetative reproduction of plants for the purpose of obtaining genetically identical culture material.

10 Plant parts are herein cut from existing plants and after a treatment cultivated to fully-grown plants. The severed plant cuttings must herein be subjected to a precise temperature and humidity treatment to acquire sufficient roots to enable growth into adult plants.

15 In the prior art the severed plant cuttings are placed in culture material, for instance soil, sand or substrate, whereafter the thus prepared plant cuttings are subjected to a temperature and humidity treatment.

 This procedure has the drawback that the plant
20 cuttings placed in culture material take up much space.

 Another problem lies in transport of the plant cuttings; plant cuttings are usually taken in countries with a warm climate, whereafter they are transported to countries with a temperate climate where the plants are
25 grown. There is therefore a need for holders for the plant cuttings in which they can be easily transported while taking up the least amount of space, for instance as air freight.

 To this end the present invention provides a
30 holder for plant cuttings, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the
35 clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other and the centre of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in the same central plane.

As a consequence of these measures it is possible to transport plant cuttings on a relatively small surface area and to subject them to an initial treatment, for instance in a climate chamber.

5 A final advantage is that the holder enables mechanical processing, for instance striking, of the plant cuttings. The supply of the plant cuttings in individualized form and with defined position is of the greatest importance herefor; these measures first make it
10 possible for a machine to take hold of the cuttings one by one and - after a possible treatment - to place them in a culture pot. A culture pot is generally provided for this purpose with a hole. This application is particularly important in the case of chrysanthemums.

15 According to a first important embodiment the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings. This provides the option of transporting the plant cuttings on the smallest possible surface area. According to yet another embodiment the carrier is
20 substantially flexible.

This provides the option of rolling up the carrier.

Another embodiment teaches that the carrier is divided into substantially rigid pieces which are coupled
25 in mutually flexible manner. This provides the option of folding the rigid pieces zigzag-wise against each other. Both these embodiments have the advantage of further reducing the space taken up by the filled holder.

According to yet another preferred embodiment
30 the clamping means each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier.

This measure is important in respect of the fact that the plant cuttings vary considerably in
35 thickness. The resilience of both elements provides the possibility of good clamping of plant cuttings of greatly varying thickness without them being damaged.

Other attractive preferred embodiments are stated in the remaining sub-claims.

The invention will be elucidated hereinbelow with reference to the annexed figures, in which:

5 figure 1 shows a part of a holder according to the present invention in which two clamping elements are depicted fixed to a carrier;

figure 2 shows a view corresponding with figure 1 of a situation wherein two adjacent carriers are placed
10 against each other;

figure 3 is a partly broken-away perspective view of a second embodiment, wherein the carriers are accommodated in a spatial construction;

figure 4 shows a cross-section along arrow IV
15 in figure 3;

figure 5 is a top view of a rolled-up carrier as according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

figure 6 shows a view of a fourth embodiment;
20 figure 7 is a perspective view of a fifth embodiment of the present invention;

figure 8 is a perspective view of a sixth embodiment of the present invention; and

figure 9 is a perspective view of a seventh
25 embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 1 shows a part of a holder 1 which is formed by a lower material strip 2 and an upper material strip 3 extending parallel thereto. Both material strips 2,3 are preferably manufactured from plastic. At the
30 position of a clamping element both strips 2,3 are mutually connected by two elements 4 respectively 5 extending perpendicularly of the length direction of material strips 2,3. Both elements 4,5 are provided with a narrowed portion 6 close to their attachment to the two
35 strips 2,3.

The thus described structure is repeated with regular spacing in lengthwise direction of strips 2,3. The clamping elements are formed by two substantially

semi-cylindrical elements 7 which are each fixed by means of two bridges 9 to the bridge elements 4 respectively 5. Both semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 are mutually separated on either side by a gap 10 respectively 11. The narrowed portions 6 of bridge elements 4 respectively 5 make it possible that when semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 are moved apart a force directing them towards each other is created. This is however also a question of dimensioning, and this force also depends on the chosen type of material, particularly the properties of the relevant plastic.

Insertion of plant cuttings 12 is facilitated by an upward diverging part 14 respectively 15 arranged on the top part of each of semi-cylindrical elements 7,8. This creates a kind of funnel. Strip 2 extends to some extent under the space between semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 so that a plant cutting 12 is prevented from falling out through the bottom.

The inner side of semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 can be formed quite at random; it is possible to embody it as a circular cylinder, although it is also possible to give it a slightly oval form.

Figure 2 shows how two such holders 1 are placed against each other, wherein the clamping elements 13 formed by the two semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 and forming part of different holders 1 are placed between each other. This provides the option of transporting or storing the cuttings in an exceptionally space-saving manner.

Of importance here is that the distance between holders 1 is determined by the width of the lower strip 2. Also important here is the fact that the size of clamping elements 13 in lengthwise direction of holders 1 is less than half the pitch of the clamping elements, so that sufficient space remains to place the clamping elements between each other. In the present case the funnel-like parts 14 and 15 are so wide that they extend partially under the lower strips 2 of both holders. It is

however important herein that the opening at the top between the two upper parts 14,15 remains clear.

Figure 3 further shows an embodiment wherein the clamping elements are not fixed to a holder extending in the form of a strip, but wherein the separate clamping elements are combined to form a spatial structure and in top view the clamping elements extend in a two-dimensional structure. This provides the option of increasing still further the density of the plant cuttings, although on the other hand the plant cuttings are less readily accessible.

This embodiment comprises a large number of clamping elements 13. The direction of the gaps 10,11 of clamping elements 13 are rotated in turn through an angle of 90° so that a chessboard structure is obtained. This measure is related to the degree of freedom between adjacent clamping elements. The two semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 forming part of a clamping element 13 must after all be able to move relative to each other.

The clamping elements are therefore mutually connected by connecting strips which permit a lateral movement of the clamping elements. These connections are formed by plates 16 which are manufactured from the same material as the clamping elements and which are each connected by means of connecting rods 17 to the four adjacent clamping elements. Each plate 16 is therefore connected to the adjacent clamping elements by four rods 17. Each clamping element is connected on each of its sides to each of two plates lying one above the other by means of two rods located one above the other. A cohesive spatial structure is thus obtained wherein the semi-cylindrical elements 7,8 forming part of a clamping element can move so as to acquire the required freedom of movement.

Arranged at regular distances in this structure are columns 18 which are connected to the adjacent elements by means of V-shaped rods 19. These columns 18 provide the option of placing a whole assembly of such

clamping elements on a flat surface and, when rod 18 is long enough, the option of placing different such structures above one another, even in the situation filled with plant cuttings.

5 Figure 4 shows a cross-section of such a configuration.

The fourth embodiment shown in figure 5 represents as it were a top view of the embodiment shown in figure 1, wherein the choice of the material is such
10 that strips 2,3 of figure 1 are to some extent flexible and can thus be rolled up.

Figure 6 shows a view also corresponding with figure 1 of a fifth embodiment, wherein the narrowed portions 6 are omitted. It is assumed herein that the
15 material from which the construction is made has the same relevant resilient properties, although it is quite possible to dimension the bridges 9 as such.

Finally, figure 7 shows a greatly differing embodiment which can be manufactured from for instance
20 paper.

It will be apparent that this can also be manufactured from plastic instead of paper, provided there is sufficient stiffness in the material. In this embodiment the carrier is formed by a strip of paper into
25 which lips 20 are recessed by means of for instance punching. The choice of material is herein such that lips 20 are urged with a certain force back to their original position. It is then possible to slide a plant cutting 12 from one side between the lips and the actual carrier.

30 The embodiment shown in figure 8 once again has a holder formed by a lower strip 2 and an upper strip 3 which are connected by in this case only a single bridge element 25. It will be apparent that as in the above discussed embodiments the bridge elements 25 are arranged
35 at mutually equal distances and that other measures known from the above embodiments are also applicable in this embodiment.

Two clamping strips 26,27 are fixed to each of the bridge elements 25 by means of connecting pieces 28. Each of the connecting pieces 28 thus extends between a bridge element 25 and a clamping strip 26 respectively
5 27.

The dimensioning of clamping strips 26,27 and connecting pieces 28 is such that when a cutting 12 is situated between clamping strips 26,27 these are urged towards each other below the level of connecting pieces
10 28. The undersides of clamping strips 26,27 press against the cutting 12. However, in order to enable insertion of cuttings 12, the parts of clamping strips 26,27 above the connecting pieces are initially moved towards each other so that the parts lying under connecting pieces 28 are
15 moved apart and it is possible to insert cuttings 12.

This configuration enables clamping of cuttings of widely varying diameter, this being highly important.

The thus formed strip can herein also be rolled up of folded zigzag-wise for placing in a conditioned
20 space or for transport.

Finally, figure 9 shows an embodiment deviating by use of material. Otherwise this embodiment matches strongly with the embodiment shown in figure 6.

The embodiment of figure 9 deviates in that the
25 parts 7,8 of the clamping material have been made from a material different from the material of the holder.

The strips 2,3 of the holder and the bridge elements 4,5 connecting these strips have been made from a rigid material, for instance a rigid plastic, whereas
30 the clamping elements and the bridges connecting the clamping elements with the bridge elements have been made of softer material, for instance a softer plastic.

The advantage of this configuration is the fact that the structural parts are rigid and can thus be
35 handled in greater units without the danger of breakage of damage of the holder per se. These attractive properties can be combined with the advantages of the soft material for the carriers per se, that is the

reduction of the chance of damage of the growing material.

Of course the price of this construction is higher; two materials have to be combined. Therefore, initially the carrier is manufactured, which carrier has been made of rigid material and subsequently, the carrier is located in the mould, in which the clamping elements are made by injection moulding. Such an injection mould is fit for consecutively producing a number of clamping elements, for instance ten clamping elements.

In the present embodiment the clamping elements each comprise a injection mould connection.

However, it is also possible to provide each of the clamping elements separately with an injection mould connection.

Another difference resides in the fact that the double bridges 9 with the preceding embodiments have been replaced by simple bridges 30 extending over a certain length. This adaptation relates to the softer material properties.

Further, both parts 7,8 of the clamping elements are mutually connected through a thin bridge of material 31. Because of this the clamping elements obtain sufficient rigidity without the softer material. As an alternative it is possible to locate the strip of material at the rear side. Further, the bridges 30 have been amended into bridge elements 4,5. This relates to the method of production.

CLAIMS

- 5 1. Holder for plant cuttings, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in
10 the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the centre of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in the same central plane.
2. Holder as claimed in claim 1, **characterized**
15 **in that** the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings.
3. Holder as claimed in claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the carrier extends as a strip and that the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier at
20 regular mutual distances.
4. Holder as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, **characterized in that** the clamping elements are each fixed on the same side of the carrier.
5. Holder as claimed in any of the foregoing
25 claims, **characterized in that** the mutual distance between the clamping elements on one side of the carrier is greater than or equal to the mutual distance between the centre of the clamping elements so that two carriers with their clamping elements can be placed between each other.
- 30 6. Holder as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the carrier is substantially flexible.
7. Holder as claimed in any of the claims 1-5, **characterized in that** the carrier is divided into
35 substantially rigid pieces which are coupled in mutually flexible manner.

8. Holder as claimed in any of the claims 1-5, **characterized in that** the carrier has been made substantially from rigid material.

9. Holder as claimed in claim 8, **characterized**
5 **in that** the clamping elements have been made from softer material than the carrier.

10. Holder as claimed in claim 9, **characterized**
in that the clamping elements have been made in the carrier by injection moulding and that they are connected
10 with the carrier.

11. Holder as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier.

12. Holder as claimed in claim 11,
characterized in that the parts each take substantially the form of a semi-cylindrical surface, wherein both parts are connected to the carrier such that in the non-loaded situation both parts are separated on either side
20 by a narrow gap.

13. Holder as claimed in claim 11 or 12, **characterized in that** the inner walls of both parts of the clamping elements have an upward diverging form on one side.

14. Holder as claimed in claim 11, 12 or 13, **characterized in that** the inner wall of both parts of the clamping elements together have a substantially oval section.

15. Holder as claimed in claim 12, 13 or 14,
30 **characterized in that** each of the parts is connected to the carrier by at least two bridges.

16. Holder as claimed in claim 15, **characterized in that** each of the parts is connected to the carrier by a single bridge element, and that each
35 bridge element extends over a substantial part of the length of the parts of the clamping element.

17. Holder as claimed in claim 16,
characterized in that both parts of the clamping element
are mutually connected by a thin strip of material.

13. Holder as claimed in claim 15,
5 **characterized in that** the carrier comprises elements
which extend parallel to the axis of the clamping
elements and which are connected by means of a narrowed
portion to parts of the carrier extending substantially
in lengthwise direction of the carrier.

10 19. Holder as claimed in claim 18,
characterized in that the carrier comprises two rods
extending in lengthwise direction to which the elements
are fixed.

20. Holder as claimed in claim 19,
15 **characterized in that** the clamping elements extend
partially between the rods.

21. Holder as claimed in claim 11,
characterized in that each of the parts of the clamping
elements are connected to the carrier for tilting on an
20 axis extending substantially at a right angle to the
plane of the carrier.

22. Holder as claimed in claim 21,
characterized in that each of the parts of the clamping
elements are connected to the carrier by means of a
25 connection subject to torsion.

23. Holder as claimed in claim 22,
characterized in that the parts of the clamping elements
each comprise a plate which comprises a clamping surface
on one side of the connection to the carrier and are
30 provided on the other side with engaging surfaces for
moving apart the clamping surfaces in the manner of a
lever.

24. Holder as claimed in any of the claims
9-23, **characterized in that** the holder is manufactured by
35 injection moulding or thermoforming of plastic.

25. Holder as claimed in any of the claims 1-6,
characterized in that the carrier is manufactured from
flat material in which at least three lips are punched at

the position of each clamping element, which lips are adapted to fixedly clamp the plant cuttings.

26. Holder as claimed in claim 25,
characterized in that the holder is manufactured from
5 paper or from plastic foil.

As the below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names:

We believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled HOLDER FOR PLANT CUTTINGS, the specification of which

- ☐ is attached hereto.
☐ was filed on September 5, 2001 as Application Serial Number 09/914,793 and was amended on September 5, 2001 (if applicable).
☒ was filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and accorded International Application No. PCT/NL00/00126, filed March 1, 2000, and amended on _____ (if any).

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We hereby acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

Prior Foreign Application(s)

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Country	Application No.	Date of Filing (day month year)	Date of Issue (day month year)	Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. §119
Netherlands	1011492	9 March 1999		yes

Prior United States Provisional Application(s)

We hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e)(1) of any U.S. provisional application listed below:

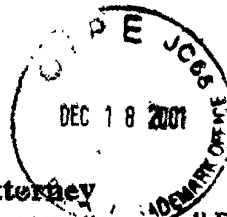
U.S. Provisional Application No.	Date of Filing (day month year)	Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(1)

Prior United States Application(s)

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Date of Filing (Day, Month, Year)	Status - Patented, Pending, Abandoned

Banner & Witcoff Ref. No.: 000771.00025
 Client Ref. No. G/CZ13/MH/33



Power of Attorney

And we hereby appoint, both jointly and severally, as my attorneys, all Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. attorneys indicated therein under PTO Customer Number #22907, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office.

All correspondence and telephone communications should be addressed to:

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
 Customer Number: 22907 (WDC)

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature

Full Name of First Inventor

Residence (city, state or country)

Post Office Address

Van Tol
 Family Name

Ter Aar, Netherlands

Schepensstraat 35, NL-2461 SN, Ter Aar, Netherlands

Date 4 December 2001

Hendricus

First Given Name

W. J.

Second Given Name

Citizenship Dutch

Signature

Full Name of Second Inventor

Residence (city, state or country)

Post Office Address

Dekker
 Family Name

Hensbroek, Netherlands

Dorpsweg 42, NL-1711 RK, Hensbroek, Netherlands

Date 4 December 2001

Cornelis

First Given Name

W.

Second Given Name

Citizenship Dutch

Signature

Full Name of Third Inventor

Residence (city, state or country)

Post Office Address

Visser
 Family Name

's-Gravendeel, Netherlands

Molenvliet 7, NL-3295 LJ, 's-Gravendeel, Netherlands

Date 4 December 2001

Cornelis

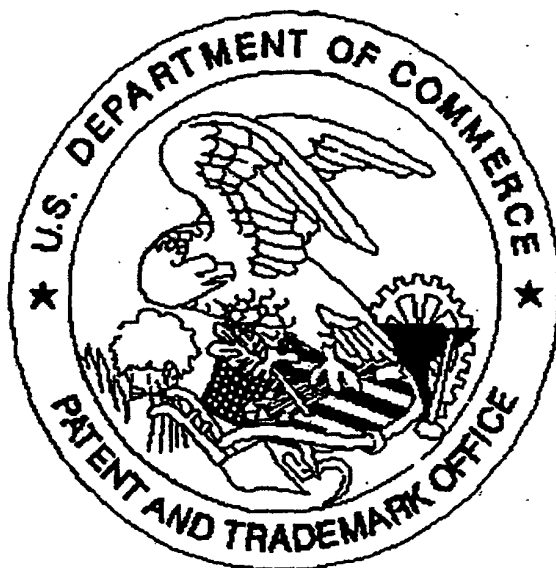
First Given Name

F. T.

Second Given Name

Citizenship Dutch

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